

Reasons for Allowance

1. Applicant's response to the last Office Action, filed on February 14, 2008 has been entered and made of record.
2. The following is an Examiner's statement for reasons of allowance:

Independent claims 24 and 30 and all its dependence are allowable over the prior art of record. Independent claims 24 and 30 recited the limitation method of enhancing the quality of decoded quantized image, are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The closest reference Lee et al (US Patent Number 5,012,333), Komatsu (US Patent Number 5,247,588) and Dewaele (US Patent Number 5,986,279) in combination discloses enhancing the quality of decoded images. However, none of them either by itself or by combination teaches the limitation that of modifying of the image by using Sieve filter in the horizontal direction after averaging pixels vertically spaced apart from each other.

$$f_{xy}(x, y) = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{N-1} f(i, y)}{N(x, y)}$$

Where the filter is represented by:

In view of the amended claims and the applicant's arguments, the new independent claims 24 and 30 and all their dependent claims are allowed. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than

the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TSUNG-YIN TSAI whose telephone number is (571)270-1671. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm ESP.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jingge Wu can be reached on (571)272-7429. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2624

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Tsung-Yin Tsai/

Examiner, Art Unit 2624

March 4, 2008

/J. W./

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2624